50. Grievances of the ryots in the interior parts of the State.

Mr. G. Subramanya Iyer (Member, Kunnathnad taluk) complained of the difficulties experienced by the people in interior parts in getting food supplies and congratulated Government on the satisfactory arrangements made for Civil Supplies. Still, it was not desirable to depend on foreigners for food-supply. From the active steps taken by Government it was clear that they were proceeding on the right lines. But the chief obstacle in the way of poor people being benefited was want of uniformity in the rate of *tharavila* charged on *puduval* lands. At present the Revenue Department was causing the small holder considerable difficulties. Waste lands which were being improved by a poor ryot at great cost of money and labour were being taken away from him either by foreigners or by wealthy and influential natives. The remedy for the ills the poor people were suffering from was the fixing of a maximum *tharavila* and also the settlement of the assessment on the analogy of the adjoining lands. Secondly, there was long and wasteful delay in the disposal of *puduval* applications. One reason why Tahsildars were empowered to dispose of *puduval* applications to the extent of 25 acres was that no delay should occur. The Settlement Register contained full particulars of *tharisu* and *poramboke* lands, with the extent of each. But applications for certain *tharisu* lands entered in column 4 as *poramboke* were being referred to Dewan Peishkars for disposal on the score that such matters were beyond the powers of the Tahsildar. On account of this arrangement a great deal of delay was caused. The Tahsildars should be invested with the power of disposing of such applications also, except those relating to *poramboke* lands bordering rivers, canals, roads, &c. Till about two years ago the Tahsildars had the power. Thirdly, the registry of lands to foreigners should be completely stopped, as their object in securing lands was exploitation. Fourthly, marshy lands fit for paddy cultivation in the reserved forests should be thrown open for registry. In accordance with the G. O. already issued, blocks of 100 acres and above alone were excised from reserved forests. It had been stated in a later Proceedings of Government that areas of 50 acres and less were available in several forest reserves. The Member submitted that about 2,000 acres of suitable land were to be had in a locality called Panduparapalappalli in the Kunnathnad taluk and requested that they might be parcelled out to natives at easy rates of *tharavila* for paddy cultivation and not assigned to foreigners. Fifthly, the rules regarding the grant of agricultural loans should be so modified as to afford greater facilities to the ryots. The Agricultural Department should also be asked to report on the requirements of the ryots. Lastly, the Member suggested the adoption of the following measures for improving the agricultural condition:—

(1) Opening of Manure depots in the interior parts of the taluks.

(2) Establishment of Agricultural Farms with provision for training the children of ryots in improved and scientific methods.

(3) Posting of seed-bulls in each Farm.

(4) Improvement of such canals, tanks, etc., which had silted up, as could be easily restored.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. Hardships experienced by the ryots of Nanjanad in the matter of cultivation and suggestions for removing them.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) first spoke about the necessity of giving effect to the Proceedings of Government ordering the establishment of an Irrigation Board and requested that early action might be taken towards the constitution of the Board and the definition of its work.

(2) Dealing with the prayer of the ryots for the Thamarakulam-Parakkay road which dated back to 1044, the Member submitted that, in spite of the locality having been inspected by the officers of the Revenue and P. W. Departments, the work had not progressed, though the lands required had been given by the people. The P. W. Officers wanted only a width of 12 feet, while there was an actual width of 21 feet. The Peishkar had also inspected the place and was satisfied with

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the width. The Member pointed out that the work should be carried out during the hot weather, as, during the rainy months, the road track would be under water. He added that, if permitted, he was prepared to do the work out of his money and take payment from Government next year, the work being done under the supervision of P. W. D. officers.

(3) The Member next prayed for the grant of remission of tax for *karivu* and *tharisu*. With the advent of the Kodayar Project, such remission was not allowed by the rules for the areas commanded by the Project, but the fact remained that Kodayar water was not sufficient and Government granted remission in individual cases on the advice of the P. W. D. officers. Owing to the conflict between the Revenue and P. W. Departments, the ryots did not get remission in all cases. The Member, therefore, prayed for the promulgation of some definite rules to regulate the procedure in the matter of granting remission of tax for *karivu* and *tharisu* on lands commanded by the Project.

(4) Another point which the Member brought forward for the consideration of Government was the damage done by floods in about 300 acres of paddy land in four places near the junction of the Pazhayar. The lands were in the vicinity of the Manakkudi *kayal* which had become narrow on account of the water-spread area having been brought under registry. That caused floods in the fields. The breadth of the *kayal* which was 1,000 feet had been reduced to 400 feet. Again, the river at the Suchindram bridge was 150 feet broad. Another river flowed into it at a distance of one furlong from the bridge. At the junction, the breadth of the river was only 50 feet. Consequently, there was inundation every year with inevitable damage to the crops. Breaches occurred annually and a big sum of money was being spent every year for repair. If the river could be broadened to a distance of about 3 miles, the annual loss sustained by the ryots could be saved. The whole cost, according to the Member, would not exceed Rs. 2,000. The land required for widening the river was mostly *poramboke* land; the actual area that might have to be acquired would not be more than 2 acres.

(5) The Pillapattu dam fed about 500 acres of land. If it could be repaired, 200 additional acres could be benefited. It was not being improved by the P. W. D. and the people were being threatened with the removal of the dam. It was the Mission dam that should be removed. The Pillapattu dam should be maintained.

(6) The sluice constructed in the Parakkay tank recently should be closed. The water in the tank was not sufficient to irrigate the lands covered by it. The ryots paid tax for two crops, but they were raising only one crop for want of water.

(7) The *poramboke* bunds on the sides of rivers, tanks, &c., should be granted to the adjoining ryots on a light *pattom* and they should be allowed to plant new trees thereon in the place of old trees removed.

(8) The Member advocated the distribution of paddy seed by the Agricultural Department, as it was admittedly superior.

(9) Great difficulty was being experienced in getting manure. The Agricultural Department should be authorised to sell manure to the ryots on credit as before.

(10) The longstanding grievance of the people in regard to want of uniformity of the standard *marakal* measure still remained unredressed. A Committee should be appointed to inquire into the whole question and take evidence, and final orders should be passed on the report of the Committee.

(11) The abolition of the toll gates at the Cape and Balamore roads was strongly urged by the Member. The levy of the toll was oppressive not only to the ryots but also to the pilgrims who resorted to Cape Comorin, and the revenue realised was very small.

(12) Lastly, the Member represented that, on account of surplus water in the Champakulam Channel which was running waste, 3,000 acres of paddy land and

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a salt factory, were being inundated. On the Member's representation a scheme was sanctioned under which work had been finished to a distance of 3 miles and 6 miles remained to be completed. People had already surrendered the required land worth about Rs. 30,000. If the canal were completed, an additional area of 10,000 acres could be brought under cultivation. The work to be carried out might cost about Rs. 10,000.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the requests of the Member appear to be reasonable. Urgent action will be taken on them. The representations on the other points will also be carefully considered.

52. Need for the opening of a Veterinary Hospital at Punalur.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) submitted that cattle markets were being held at Avaneeswaram, Kunnathur, Piracode and Sasthancotta and many heads of cattle were being imported to Punalur every year from the Tinnevelly District and from there sent to the above markets. Diseases were also being imported through those animals. Last year a peculiar disease prevailed on account of which several animals died within 10 or 12 hours and it was found to be contagious. 200 heads of cattle died. The Quilon Veterinary Inspector could not attend to such cases, on account of the distance. A Veterinary Dispensary at Punalur was a great want, and the Member requested Government to establish one.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be referred to the Director of Agriculture for an expression of his views.

53. Agricultural difficulties of the Shencottah taluk and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. A. Ponnambalam Pillai (Member, Shencottah taluk) urged that the first and foremost requirement was improvement of the irrigational facilities. The five eastern villages *viz.*, Cusbah, Elathur, Ayikudy, Kilangad and Samburvadagarai, were being irrigated by the rivers and that only for the Kumbhom crop. Kanny crop got hardly enough water. It was that crop that stood in need of water the supply of which could be facilitated by improving the tanks which alone would enable them to raise the Kanny crop. The case of the other *pakuthies* was much worse; during the rains the lands were being washed away by flood. The lands dried up the next day. The channel-fed lands suffered more, as they depended on the streams which supplied water only during the monsoon. The best way of ensuring a copious supply of water was to enlarge and otherwise improve the tanks. An investigation should be ordered of the irrigation works in the whole taluk, especially of those of Puliyira, Karkudy, Puthur, Sivanallur and Mekkarai *pakuthies*. The sanctioned estimates for irrigational improvements required revision in the light of the present standard. The Sri Mulaperi tank, the estimates for which were sanctioned years ago, might be ordered to be constructed at once. Among other agricultural needs were the bridges to cross the Ayikudy and Samburvadagarai rivers which had been sanctioned. The following points were also urged :—

(1) Provision of facilities for green manure and fodder. It was impossible to obtain free passes for the former. An order granting remission of half-tax on lands on which green manure or fodder crops were grown would be a source of great encouragement. A similar concession was being granted by the Madras Government. The slopes of Forest Reserves should be reserved for fodder and fuel.

(2) The Member then complained that the term *Manipidi* was not defined. To declare an acre of land yielding a few measures as *Manipidi* was unreasonable and unjust. That was not intended by the Royal Proclamation, though the practice was otherwise. Lands whose crops were destroyed by wild animals were also entitled to some concession.

(3) The Agricultural Journal should be issued in Tamil also for the benefit of the Tamil taluks. The Agricultural Sub-Inspector should be ordered to visit the villages thrice a week to demonstrate the use of improved implements and scientific manure.

(4) The Member suggested the division of the State into a number of circles with an Inspector in charge of each and also the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture.

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